

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are currently pending in the above-referenced patent application. Figures 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D are amended by way of the present amendment.

In the Office Action mailed November 20, 2002: Figures 1-4 were objected to. Claims 1, 2, 7, 15, 30, 45, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Makino (U.S. Patent No. 6,426,732). Claims 3-6, 8-14, 16-29, 31-33, and 35-44 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In response to the objection to Figures 1-4, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. On page 2 of the Office Action, it is stated that "[f]igure 1-4 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated." Figures 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D have been amended, as shown in the attached Request for Approval of Drawing Amendment. However, these figures have not been amended to indicate them as Prior Art. Alternatively, these Figures have been amended with a legend indicating them as Related Art, consistent with the written disclosure in the specification. The Applicants respectfully submit that Related Art is not the same as Prior Art, as Related Art is not necessarily Prior Art.

In response to the rejection of claims 1-2 and 46, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Makino, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. These claims recite "... a plurality of priming electrodes configured to increase the amount of priming

particles in a discharge cell to reduce discharge lag formed one by one between a pair of sustaining electrodes"

Makino relates to a method of energizing a plasma display panel. However, unlike the recitations of claims 1-2 and 46, there is no disclosure of a plurality of priming electrodes configured to increase the amount of priming particles in a discharge cell to reduce discharge lag formed one by one between a pair of sustaining electrodes. In fact, there is no disclosure in Makino relating to priming particles. At least for these reasons, a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established.

In response to the rejection of claim 7, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Makino, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. These claims recite "... a plurality of priming electrodes configured to increase the amount of priming particles in a discharge cell to reduce discharge lag..." Makino has been discussed above. For similar reasons, as discussed above, Makino does not disclose these recitations. At least for this reason, a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established.

In response to the rejection of claim 15, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Makino, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. These claims recite a plasma display panel comprising a first electrode configured to increase the amount of priming particles in a discharge cell to reduce discharge lag in response to an electrical pulse applied to the first electrode. For similar reasons, as discussed above, these recitations are not

disclosed in Makino. At least for these reasons, a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established.

In response to the rejection of claim 30, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Makino, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. These claims recite a method comprising priming particles in a discharge cell in response to an electrical pulse applied to a first electrode to reduce discharge lag. For similar reasons, as discussed above, Makino does not disclose these recitations. At least for this reason, a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established.

In response to the rejection of claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Makino , the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. This claim recites "[a]n apparatus comprising a discharge cell and a means of forming priming particles in the discharge cell to reduce discharge lag." (emphasis added). The Applicants respectfully submit that this claim invokes the sixth paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, claim 45 is limited to the structures disclosed in the specification associated with the function of "forming priming particles in the discharge cell to reduce discharge lag." Makino does not disclose these structures. At least for this reason, a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established.

The Applicants wish to thank Examiner Patel for the indication that claims 3-6, 8-14, 16-29, and 31-44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, these claims have not been rewritten into independent form, as they are allowable based on their dependency on independent claims 1, 7, 15, and 30. Further, the Applicants are unable to

acknowledge the "statement of reason for the indication of allowable subject matter" on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action for the purposes of file history estoppel, as this statement does not correspond verbatim to the recitations of these claims.

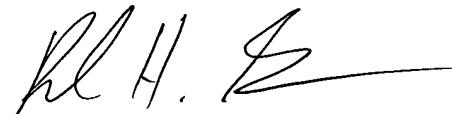
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Daniel H. Sherr, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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